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Farm Broadcasters Letter

Letter No. 2283 Oct. 10, 1986

USSR GRAIN PURCHASES

In recent weeks, the Soviet Union apparently has purchased 1 million tons of wheat from the European Community, less than 1 million from Australia, and 300,000 tons from Austria, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In addition, Yugoslavia sold the Soviets 600,000 tons of corn. Meanwhile, for the second year in a row, the Soviet Union failed to fulfill its long-term grain agreement with the U.S. That agreement required the Soviets to purchase 9 million tons of U.S. grain, including 4 million tons each of wheat and corn, annually from Oct. 1, 1983 through Sept. 30, 1988. The Soviet purchase of European Community wheat was made under a special one-day subsidy for the Soviet of $130 per ton. Total Soviet purchases of U.S. grain, largely corn, were 7 million tons.

CANADIAN GRAIN SALES

Due to the month-long strike at Thunder Bay, the Canadian Wheat Board has indicated that it has turned down business because delivery could not be guaranteed. In addition, since most grain is normally cleaned at Thunder Bay before it's shipped east, the strike also resulted in a lack of clean grain for export, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Inland terminals are unable to clean enough grain to maintain supplies. Under a federal mediator, a tentative contract agreement was reached over the first weekend of Oct., but has not been approved by union members as of Oct. 8.

OPPORTUNITY FOR SELLING U.S. RED MEAT

In September, Brazil announced measures aimed at resolving its serious domestic red meat shortage, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Measures affecting trade include: Allowing private, tax-exempt imports of red meat and fish through Dec. 31, 1987; suspending all exports of fresh and processed beef; and reexamining all contracts for chicken exports. These measures could provide an opportunity for increased sales of U.S. meat to Brazil, as well as limit Brazilian chicken exports that compete with U.S. shipments.

DAIRY TERMINATION SLAUGHTER

An estimated 12,600 head of dairy cattle were slaughtered in federally-inspected plants during the week ending Sept. 20 as a result of the Dairy Termination Program, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The cumulative total of cattle slaughtered under the program from April 1 through Sept. 20 is an estimated 776,000 head.

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Radio-Television Division Phone (202) 447-4330 Washington D.C. 20250

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LESS U.S. COTTON TO CANADA

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the portion of Canada's cotton needs supplied by the U.S. dropped sharply to 34 pct. in the 1985/86 marketing year, down from 97 pct. in 1984/85. Total Canadian cotton imports rose significantly, however. China replaced the U.S. as Canada's top cotton supplier, jumping from zero to 33 pct., due to favorable Chinese cotton prices. South Africa supplied 9 pct. of Canada's needs.

U.S. COTTON EXPORTS UP

U.S. cotton exports increased sharply during Aug. to reach 286,000 bales, the highest monthly level since June 1985, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The leading markets were Japan, South Korea, Italy, Taiwan, Indonesia and West Germany. The total 1986/87 season exports are also expected to rebound from last season's poor showing and are forecast at 6½ million bales, over three times the amount exported in 1985/86.

COW ON-LINE

Information about international animal health regulations as well as regulations on interstate livestock shipments is now available from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's new on-line electronic information system. By accessing the on-line system for instance, a cattleman can find out what must be done before sending a hog from Nebraska to China. The new information system is known formally as the International Regulations Retrieval System. The system can be accessed via AGNET, sponsored by the Univ. of Nebraska. For more information, call AGNET at 402/472-1892.

CREDIT GUARANTEES FOR MEXICO

The U.S. Department of Agriculture on Oct. 7 authorized up to $745 million in credit guarantees to Mexico in fiscal 1987 to permit that country to buy U.S. agricultural commodities. These credit guarantees provide $320 million in coverage for sales of feed grains - corn, sorghum, barley and oats; $215 million for sales of oilseeds - soybean, cottonseed, peanut, flaxseed, and sunflowers. For further information, call 202/447-3224.

A WEED THAT'S HOME ON THE RANGE

There's an enemy on the range called the knapweed, a foreign plant that has spread over millions of acres of Western rangeland, killing off indigenous grasses that otherwise could provide food for grazing cattle. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has entered the war with biological control, using live organisms to wipe out or to limit the advance of the weed. The control weapon is an imported insect, the seed-head fly. The insect is the weed's natural enemy. It lays eggs in unopened knapweed flower buds. When the eggs hatch, the larva damage the bud and prevent most of its seeds from developing.

NEW WINDMILL IN TEXAS

Texas is looking to windmills for electrical energy. Construction has begun on the vertical shaft of a 164-foot experimental windmill that scientists hope will be able to produce 500 thousand watts of electricity in a 28 mph wind. According to a researcher of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, that's 100 times the energy from a traditional water-pumping windmill. It's still experimental and won't be ready for testing until next spring. For more information, contact Nolan Clark in Bushland, Texas - 806/378-5721.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

U.S. WEATHER AND CROP UPDATE...Heavy rains and flooding have taken its toll on crop and harvesting conditions in the Midwest. USDA meteorologist Ray Motha offers the latest weather and crop update for the U.S. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (291)

WORLD AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK...USDA economist Richard Kennedy examines the situation and outlook for world agriculture, including the outlook for world meat production, as well as the decline in coarse grain exports this year. Vic Powell interviews. (292)

U.S. RICE OUTLOOK...Exports of U.S. rice have more than tripled this year, and rice exports are likely to remain competitive in the future. USDA economist Janet Livezey focuses on factors contributing to the dramatic rise in U.S. rice exports. Vic Powell interviews. (293)

ARS RESEARCH FEATURES...USDA research scientists from the Agricultural Research Service are making fabrics that can adapt to extreme cold temperatures; and are using video to study roots to determine plant stress in these research reports. Will Pemble interviews. (294)

FROZEN SOYBEANS...Food scientists with the University of Illinois are harvesting green soybeans as a possible new frozen food product with great market potential for the food industry. Gary Beaumont interviews. (295)

Food & Fitness
An Everyday Event

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1532...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) Farmers appear to be one of the most susceptible groups to hearing problems. Experts say that's because farmers spend a lot of time with noisey equipment. On this edition of AGRICULTURE USA, Gary Crawford demonstrates how noise can damage your hearing.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1521...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Hard times for co-ops; The South Korean market; Lower dairy production.

CONSUMER TIME #1014...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Trace elements and obesity; Algeria, lots of potential; A risky gamble; Overcoming lactose intolerance; The home gardeners enemy.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Tues, Oct. 14, Weekly crop and weather; Thurs, Oct. 16, Milk production; Mon, Oct. 20, Catfish, Agricultural Outlook. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

OFF MIKE

Dave Russell has left WOWO, Fort Wayne, Indiana, after 5 years to accept a job as the head of the Indiana Farm Bureau information department. Steve Schram, WOWO station manager is looking for Dave's replacement. His number is 219-424-2400 ... For the sixth time in the last seven years, KRVN, Lexington, Nebraska, has received the top agricultural service award in the annual Ak-Sar-Ben radio awards competition. The gold "Service to Agriculture" award went to the daily "Country Roads," program produced and hosted by Rich Hawkins and Ken Anderson. Our congratulations! ... One of the pioneer farm broadcasters, Orville "Sandy" Saunders has been honored. He was farm broadcaster at WKY, Oklahoma City, in the 1950's and went on to become president and general manager of the State Fair of Oklahoma. The honor was a life-size statue, unveiled at the fair this year. Our thanks to Layne Beaty (retired USDA Radio/TV Chief) for passing on the information .... Our Don Elder (Producer/host, A BETTER WAY) is getting married (in fact is married by the time you read this since the wedding date was October 11). His bride Nancy is the meeting planner for the American Chemical Society here in D.C. ... Point of interest: The Dietary Guidelines issued by USDA last year are now available in Spanish. We have a few free copies, so if you want one, let me know ... Our George Holmes, who normally spends his time in USDA Radio, is back from a two week trip to Arizona and California...Arizona for radio interviews and California for a TV project, covering a raid on a marijuana "plantation" on a National Forest. His cameraman Linwood Jones was issued a flack jacket and went in with a group of heavily armed sheriff's deputies in the first helicopter. George returned fully convinced it's deadly business.

JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief, Radio and Television Division

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Farm Broadcasters Letter

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Letter No. 2284 Oct. 16, 1986

WORLD WHEAT PRODUCTION - 1986/87

The world wheat production for 1986/87 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 506 million 900 thousand tons. This is up 1 million 300 thousand tons or less than 1 pct. from last month and up less than 1 pct. from the 1985/86 harvest. U.S. production is estimated at 56½ million tons, down 14 pct. from last year's crop, due to lower area and yield. USSR production of wheat is estimated at 77 million tons, down 7 pct. from last year. China's wheat production is estimated at a record 88 million tons, up 3 pct. from last year's crop. European Community's production is estimated at 70 million 700 thousand tons, down 2 pct. from last year.

WORLD COARSE GRAINS PROD. - 1986/87

The world coarse grains production for 1986/87 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 820 million 500 thousand tons, down 3 pct. from the record 1985/86 harvest. U.S. production is estimated at 250 million 400 thousand tons, down 9 pct. from last year. China's production is estimated at 89 million 600 thousand tons, up 9 pct. from last year. Corn output is estimated at 71 million tons. E. Europe's corn production is estimated at 71 million tons, up 2 pct. from last year. USSR's corn production is estimated at 90 million tons, down 4 pct. from last year.

USSR IMPORT ESTIMATE FOR 1986/87

The U.S. Department of Agriculture projects USSR grain imports for the 1986/87 marketing year have been reduced by 4 million tons to 32 million. At this level, imports would still be up marginally from a year ago, but far short of the record 1984/85 imports of 55 million 500 thousand tons. Wheat imports, currently projected at 16 million tons, are down 3 million from a month ago but little different from the 1985/86 estimate and well below the levels of other recent years. Coarse grain imports, now estimated at 15 million tons, are down a million from the month earlier estimate but still above the 1985/86 level.

WORLD OILSEEDS PRODUCTION: 1986/87

The world soybean production for 1986/87 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at a record 197 million 200 thousand tons, up 1 pct. from last year. U.S. production is estimated at 60 million 600 thousand tons, down 7 pct. from last year. U.S. soybean production is estimated at 54 million 200 thousand tons, down 5 pct. from last year.

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Radio-Television Division — Phone (202) 447-4330 — Washington D.C. 20250

A 21. 37:

LAGGING USSR GRAIN BUYING

The grain buying activity of the USSR continues to run well behind levels of recent years, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. As of early October, buying commitments from all origins were estimated in the area of 7 million tons. A year ago at this time the USSR had purchased around 12 million tons and by early Oct. 1984 purchases for the 1984/85 marketing year were approaching 30 million tons. Soviet coarse grain imports are expected to continue large in 1986/87 as world coarse grain prices stay depressed. So far, Soviet wheat buyers have covered about a fourth of this year's projected wheat imports.

U.S. CROP PRODUCTION - OCT. 10

The corn for grain production in the U.S. is forecast by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 8 billion 220 million bushels, down 7 pct. from last year's record crop, according to the October forecast. Soybean production is forecast at 1 billion 990 million bushels, 5 pct. below last year. All cotton production is forecast at 10 million bales, 26 pct. below the 1985 crop. All tobacco production is forecast at 1 billion 220 million pounds, 20 pct. below last year and the smallest crop since 1936. (For state statistical info, call 202-447-2127.)

DAIRY TERMINATION

An estimated 13,700 head of dairy cattle were slaughtered in federally-inspected plants during the week ending Sept. 27, as a result of the Dairy Termination Program, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The cumulative total of cattle slaughtered under the program from April 1 through Sept. 27 is an estimated 789,700 head.

COTTON: WORLD CONSUMPTION & PRODUCTION

The 1986/87 world cotton consumption forecast rose slightly to 77 million bales, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The world production for 1986/87 is estimated at 73 million 500 thousand bales, 7 pct. below 1985/86. U.S. exports increased sharply in Aug. as provisions of new farm legislation enabled U.S. cotton to once again become price competitive. Aug. exports totaled 286,000 bales, 38 pct. above Aug. 1985.

MOTOR CARRIER BANKRUPTCIES

Most agricultural commodities are transported to market by motor carriers, according to a study by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The study reveals a dramatic increase in 1985 motor carrier insurance costs with many carriers reporting increases of 400 to 500 pct. in liability insurance renewals. Adding poor earnings and declining profits to the insurance costs, have caused many bankruptcies. (Copies of the study, "Preliminary Findings of the 1985 Motor Carrier Insurance Crisis", are available from the Office of Transportation, USDA, Room 1405 Auditor's Bldg., Wash., D.C. 20250. Tel: 202/447-8891.)

ASSISTANCE FOR RED MEAT

On Oct. 9, Acting Under Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Goldberg announced plans for a $7-million program to expand exports of U.S.-produced red meat to Japan and Hong Kong. The U.S. produces 19 pct. of the world's beef, pork and lamb, but accounts for less than 3 pct. of total world meat exports.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

CURRENT CROP PRODUCTION REPORT...USDA economist Larry Van Meir offers the latest supply and demand situation for crops in the U.S. and talks about factors contributing to the current estimates. Vic Powell interviews. (296)

UNLEADED GAS AND FARM EQUIPMENT...Gerald Grinnell with USDA's Office of Energy talks about the proposed ban of leaded gasoline by the Environmental Protection Agency, and how this ban could affect the agricultural industry. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (297)

CURRENT VEGETABLE OUTLOOK...USDA economist Shannon Hamm takes a look at the current vegetable situation, including harvesting conditions as well as production and stocks, and factors contributing to that outlook. Vic Powell interviews. (298)

BEAN CONSUMPTION IN U.S.....USDA economist Neil Conklin takes a look at the decline of bean consumption in the U.S. and how that decline is affecting U.S. producers. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (299)

SOW SOUNDS AND PIG PERFORMANCE...Scientists with the University of Illinois are studying how pig performance can be improved with the use of recorded sow sounds. Gary Beaumont interviews. (300)

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1533...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) The cost of irrigation is driving some farmers back to dryland farming; but can those farmers succeed? Brenda Curtis finds out from an expert.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1522...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Generic certificates--a new currency; Dryland farming and new techniques; New market for U.S. wine producers.

CONSUMER TIME #1015...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) A warmer world?; Making Bonsai plants look old; Urban renewal, Argentine style; How much noise is too much?; The independent elderly.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Thurs, Oct. 23, Poultry production; Fri, Oct. 24, Cattle on feed; World food needs; Tues, Oct. 28, Oil crop situation, Weather and crop report; Wed, Oct. 29, Fruit situation; Thurs, Oct. 30, Grain stocks; Fri, Oct. 31, Ag. prices. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

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USDA RADIO FEATURES. A monthly script service featuring a variety of short items on a variety of subjects. For sample copy, write Jim Johnson.

OFF MIKE

It's hard to realize, but by the time you read this the NAFB Convention will be only about three weeks away. From the looks of the preliminary program, president-elect Evan Slack (Evan Slack Network, Denver, Colo.) has put together a goodie. We'll be there. Hope you will be, too ... Ed Slusarczyk (Ag Radio Network, Utica, NY) received the Eastern Milk Producers Cooperatives' annual Agricultural Press Award. Our congratulations! ... Interesting idea. The Indiana Agri-Business Network (Gary Truitt/Holly Dowling) has a special phone number for anyone who wants to call up and listen to the network's 9-1/2 minute show at 12:05 Eastern Time. As the notice in the network's latest newsletter points out, it's a "live" show, not a taped one ... Our Brenda Curtis-Heiken has been away this week serving as guest lecturer at a university over in West Virginia. And our Don Elder is honeymooning somewhere up north...way up north. Those who attended his wedding in Alexandria, Virginia, were escorted by bagpipers to Robert E. Lee's boyhood home where the reception was held and were greeted at the door by a town crier dressed in early American costume and equipped with loud hand bell and lusty voice. Festive, to say the least ... It rained here Monday. Driving to work on wet roads is always an experience around here. So, after a two-hour commute (normally about an hour), I concur wholeheartedly with Johnny Martin (Ohio Farm Bureau, Columbus) who said, "If all the cars in the U.S. were lined up bumper to bumper, some fool would pull out and try to pass."

Jim Johnson

JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief
Radio and Television Division

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Farm Broadcasters Letter

Letter No. 2285 Oct. 23, 1986

SOVIET GRAIN DATA

The Soviet has released its grain yield and production figures for the 1981-85 crops for the first time. Here are the official production figures for the total Soviet grain crop and corresponding estimates by the U.S. Department of Agriculture: In 1981, the official Soviet data shows grain production of 158,216,000 metric tons...USDA estimate was 160,000,000 metric tons. In 1982, Soviet data, 186,773,000 metric tons...USDA estimate, 180,000,000. In 1983, Soviet data, 192,216,000...USDA estimate, 190,000,000. In 1984, Soviet data, 172,627,000...USDA estimate, 170,000,000. In 1985, Soviet data, 191,674,000 metric tons...USDA estimate, 190,000,000 metric tons.

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AGRICULTURE AND TAX REFORM

The impact of the Tax Reform Act on individual farmers will depend, among other things, on the farmer's income and investments. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the tax burden should not change substantially for most. However, livestock producers with relatively high annual investment and a large proportion of their gross receipts from culled livestock could face higher taxes. Capital spending will likely be slightly less and decisions will be based more on profitability than on tax benefits.

U.S.-TAIWAN LONG-TERM GRAIN AGREEMENT

A private, five-year trade agreement between U.S. exporters and Taiwan's importers has been renewed for the 1986/91 period, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The new agreement calls for Taiwan to purchase at least 8 million 600 thousand tons of corn, 2 million 850 thousand tons of wheat, 1 million tons of barley and 5 million 700 thousand tons of soybeans. Taiwan generally purchases far more than specified in the agreement.

FARM FINANCES - 1985

The top earners among States in farm cash receipts for 1985 were, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture: California, $14 billion; Texas, $9 billion 300 million; Iowa, $9 billion 200 million; Illinois, $7 billion 800 million; and Nebraska, $7 billion 200 million. Crop receipt leaders were California, Illinois, Iowa, Texas, and Florida. Leaders in livestock receipts were Texas, Iowa, California, Nebraska, and Wisconsin. (For more information, call Linda Farmer, 202/786-18094.)

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A21.34:

MAJOR COMMODITY SALES BY STATES FOR '85

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the States earning the most from major commodity sales in 1985 were: Texas for cattle and calves; Wisconsin for dairy products; Illinois and Iowa for soybeans, corn and hogs; Kansas for wheat, Arkansas for broilers; and California for eggs, hay and lettuce.

EC GROWING AGGRESSIVE

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, for a couple of weeks in a row during October the EC raised its subsidy levels for wheat exports by 4-5 pct. to 126 European Community Units per metric tons - that's U.S. $130 per ton - and increased subsidy levels for durum wheat destined for Yugoslavia, Albania and Mediterranean Basin countries. The EC Commission also has decided to offer barley at subsidized rates for export to Asia, particularly Japan. French officials also reportedly told Algerian officials they would be willing to undercut U.S. offers to the extent necessary to regain their market share. The U.S. market share of the Algerian barley market jumped from 20 pct. in 1984/85 to 45 pct. in 1985/86, largely as a result of a 1-million-ton Export Enhancement Program.

GLOBAL GRAIN TRADE DROPS

Preliminary estimates by the U.S. Department of Agriculture of world grain trade for the year completed on Sept. 30 indicate a sharp drop from earlier years. Reasons for the decline include: rising production in countries that have been traditional importers; diminished buying power in some third world countries; and the heavy debt loads of many developing countries and their inability to shoulder more debt-servicing burdens. The highest wheat trade was in 1984/85, totaling 106 million 900 thousand tons, of which just over 36 pct. was U.S. wheat. In 1985/86, world trade in wheat totaled 85 million 200 thousand tons, of which U.S. share was just over 29 pct. In 1984/85, world coarse grains trade totaled 100 million 700 thousand tons of which over 56 pct. was U.S. grains. In 1985/86, the world total was 81 million 500 thousand tons, of which just over 44 pct. was U.S. share.

BRAZIL WANTS MORE CORN

According to Brazilian government officials, Brazil will need to import 1½ to 2 million tons of corn through Feb. 1987. In 1985/86, Brazil imported a record 1 million 900 thousand tons of corn, with the U.S. supplying an estimated 55 pct., according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. As a result of the revised import forecast, U.S. sales prospects may improve considerably. Brazilian production in the 1986 crop year declined by 10 pct. to 120 million tons from 1985's near-record production. Increased use of corn in the feed sector has led to a record use forecast of 22 million 500 thousand tons in 1986/87.

EC TARGETS JAPAN

In a bid to find more outlets for its surplus barley, the European Community will offer subsidies for barley exports to Japan for the first time in several years, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Japanese barley market is dominated by Australia and Canada, providing approximately 90 pct. of the 1 million 400 thousand tons.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

WEATHER AND CROP UPDATE...USDA chief meteorologist Dr. Norton Strommen takes a look at the latest weather and crop conditions for the U.S., including the status of the Midwest planting season and what's expected for crop conditions in the coming months. Vic Powell interviews. (301)

CURRENT AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK - I...USDA economist Herb Moses talks about major factors impacting a producer's tax bill under the Tax Reform Act and focuses on the situation for production inputs this year. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (302)

CURRENT AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK - II...USDA economist Herb Moses continues his discussion on the latest agricultural outlook, commenting on the Targeted Export Assistance Program as well as the current health of the Farm Credit System. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (303)

SHEEP MARKETING...Direct marketing is a popular practice used by farmers to sell their goods directly to the consumer. Katherine Tyler, a farmer from Baltimore County, Maryland, talks with "Farm Day's" Marilyn Maguire about her success in this form of marketing. DeBoria Janifer introduces. (304)

ARS RESEARCH FEATURES...Scientists with USDA's Agricultural Research Service are developing instruments that control moisture content of cotton; and exploring monitors that measure fat content. Will Pemble interviews. (305)

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1534...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) Are American farmers still the most efficient farmers in the world? On this edition of Agriculture USA Gary Crawford explores the issue with Dr. Henry Kelly of the Office of Technology Assessment.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1523...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Tax reform and the American farmer; Ag. pollution and the Chesapeake Bay; The growing market in Algeria; Are U.S. farmers falling behind?

CONSUMER TIME #1016...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Fall is lawn time; Alternative housing for the elderly; Secrets of human milk; Hearing damage from noise; New beef storage study.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Tues, Nov. 4, Weekly weather and crop outlook; Mon, Nov. 10, Horticultural products review; Soviet grain situation and outlook; Crop production report; World agricultural supply and demand. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

OFF MIKE

We keep seeing a familiar face in the hallways these days, Garth Clark's. He's the new Washington reporter for Farm Day, the daily ag show produced by Glenn Tolbert at Maryland Public Television. Garth is covering USDA and Congressional activities ... From the latest newsletter put out by Don Wick (KLGR, Redwood Falls, Minn), we learned that Don, like many other farm broadcasters, not only reports on county and state fair activities but gets involved in them as well. Don writes in his newsletter that he entered the Redwood County fair's open class hog show and ended up winning third in the barrow class. Not as good as last year, though, when he had the grand champion in the open class dairy show ... Important information for you if you would like to tap information coming out in the Agricultural Outlook Conference, Dec. 2-4. There will again be a 900 telephone service for many of the sessions. The 900 service, if you're not already familiar with it, gives you live access to the important speeches and reports. There's a relatively low cost for the service: 50-cents for the first minute and 35-cents for each additional minute. So, a half-hour session would cost $10.65. If you would like a schedule of what will be available on the 900-line service during Outlook Conference, let us know ... If you have a downlink dish and can access Westar III, Transponder 2, and have a tunable receiver, let us know. We're getting set up to provide special radio events on that satellite and transponder. These special events will be USDA press conferences held with Washington, D.C. press and the "telephone" press conferences held with farm broadcasters on a teleconferencing "bridge." We'll put you on a notification list for when we have these special events. You'll get on every one and will save the cost of a phone call.

Jim Johnson

JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief
Radio and Television Division

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Farm Broadcasters Letter

Letter No. 2286 NOV 1 Oct. 30, 1986

MORE ON '87 FEED GRAIN PROGRAM

The voluntary paid land diversion for the 1987 feed grain program requires that farmers wanting to participate must convert 15 pct of their feed grain acreage base to acreage conservation reserve. This voluntary 15 pct paid diversion in combination with the 20 pct acreage reeduction announced Sept. 29 means farmers can set aside 35 pct of their feed grain base acreage. The U.S. Dept of Agric also announced that payment rates for the voluntary paid land diversion are: corn, $2.00 per bushel; sorghum, $1.90; barley, $1.60; and oats 80-cents. The 1987 target prices are: Corn, $3.03 per bushel; sorghum, $2.88; barley, $2.60; and oats, $1.60. Loan rates for the 1987 feed grain crops are: Corn, $1.82 per busheel; sorghum, $1.74; barley, 94-cents; and rye $1.55. A marketing loan program will not be implemented for the 1987 feed grain crops.

SOME RICE PROGRAM PROVISION ANNOUNCED

Sec'y of Agric Richard Lyng announced a 35 pct acreage reduction for the 1987 rice program. The national average loan rate will the $6.84 per hundredweight, and the target price will be $11.66 per hundredweight. Other rice program provisions will be announced at a later date.

SIGNUP PERIOD/ ADVANCE PAYMENTS ANNOUNCED

Farmers may sign up for the 1987 feed grains, upland cotton and rice programs between Nov. 17 and March 30. In announcing the dates, the Dept of Agric also reminded farmers that the 1987 wheat program signup began Oct. 1 and will continue through March 30. Wheat and feed grain farmers participating in the programs may request 40 pct of their estimated deficiency payments when they sign up and upland cotton and rice producers may request 30 pct. Also at signup, feed grain producers may request 50 pct of their estimated diversion payments. USDA estimates deficiency payments as $2.10 per bushel for wheat, $1.21 for corn, $1.14 for sorghum, $1.11 for barley, 55-cents for oats, 27.15-cents per pound for upland cotton, and 4.82-cents for rice. Fifty percent of the advance deficiency and diversion payments will be paid in cash and the rest in generic commodity certificates.

PRICE REPORTING CHANGED TO MARKET YEAR

Effective this year, the U. S. Dept of Agric will report its major crop price series on a market-year basis, instead of a season-average basis. The years are June-May for wheat, oats and barley; Sept.-Aug. for corn, soybeans and grain sorghum; and Aug.-July for rice.

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A21.34:

REGS GUARANTEE RIGHTS OF FARM CREDIT SYTEM BORROWERS

The Farm Credit Administration has issued regulations that will guarantee borrower and stockholder rights in their dealings with the Farm Credit System. Because of certain changes between the proposed and final regulations, the public will be given 30 days to comment on provisions that may be controversial. The regulations are in the Oct. 28 issue of the Federal Register.

EXPORT ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITIES

The Commodity Credit Corporation has accepted more export enhancement bids, according to a report from the U.S. Dept. of Agric. One was for an export bonus to cover a sale of 25,000 metric tons of barley malt to the Philippines. Another was to cover a sale for 15,000 metric tons of wheat flour to Zaire. Two were for sales of 18,000 metric tons of durum wheat and for 20,000 tons of hard red winter wheat to Yugoslavia.

MORE CATTLE ON FEED

Three percent more cattle and calves were on feed on Oct. 1 this year in the 13 states making quarterly reports to the U.S. Dept of Agric than last year. The total on feed on that date was almost 8-1/4 million head. However, that total was down 9 pct. below 1984. Placement of cattle and calves on feed during the July-Sept. quarter totaled 6-1/3 million, up 15 pct from last year and up 1 pct. from 1984. Cattle feeders expect to market nearly 5-1/2 million head during the Oct.-Dec. quarter, 3 pct. above the fourth quarter last year but 2 pct below 1984. (For more statistical info, call 202-447-6880.)

USDA TO STUDY GROWTH HORMONE

A bovine growth hormone that occurs naturally in cattle will be studied by U.S. Dept of Agric economists to analyze the potential economic effects of its use in dairy cattle. Studies show that the hormone, when administered to dairy cattle, significantly increases milk yields. It's expected the study will be completed by mid to late 1987.

COCOA PRODUCTION AT RECORD LEVEL

Chocolate lovers can relax. World cocoa bean production for the coming year is forecast to be slightly above the record levels of the last two years. However, the picture isn't quite as clear as to whether the prices will be up, the same or lower. Much will depend on how much cocoa is put into storage and held off the market in efforts to keep prices strong. (For more info, call 202-382-8910.)

Hens, about 229 million of them, in the 20 major egg production states laid 4 billion 630 million eggs in September, and that's up slightly from production for the same month last year, according to the U.S. Dept of Agric. (For more statistical information, call 202-447-2123.

MORE CITRUS, LESS OTHER FRUITS

If forecasts come true, U.S. citrus production this year will be 14 pct higher than last, despite fewer acres of bearing trees, according to the U.S. Dept of Agric. The production for all types of citrus this year is forecast at nearly 12-1/2 million tons. Orange output is 14 pct higher, grapefruit is 9 pct, and lemons 35 pct. The 1986 noncitrus crop (major tree fruits, grapes and cranberries) is forecast to be down 8 pct, mostly grapes.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

COMMODITY PROGRAMS..The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced sign-up periods for the 1987 commodity programs and a major plan to take grain land out of production next spring. Orville Overboe with USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service outlines the details of these programs. DeBoria Janifer interviews.

NEW TAX LAWS AND AGRICULTURE...USDA economist Terry Townsend describes some of the changes in the new tax law recently signed by President Reagan, and how these changes will affect agriculture. Vic Powell interviews.

CHANGES IN AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS...Federal agricultural programs were altered by the 99th Congress during the last days before adjournment. USDA economist Terry Townsend reviews those changes and their impact on agricultural producers. Vic Powell

1987 BUDGET AND AGRICULTURE...The fiscal year 1987 appropriations bill for the U.S. Department of Agriculture contains a number of funding level changes that can affect program operations during the year. Stephen Dewhurst, director, USDA Office of Budget, focuses on these changes. Vic Power interviews.

FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL TRADE IN U.S.....U.S. agricultural exports are the weakest since the 1970's, while imports of agricultural products continue to rise. USDA economist Steve MacDonald comments on thhese and other factors contributing to the current trade situation in the U.S. DeBoria Janifer interviews.

FROM OUR RADIO

AGRICULTURE USA #1535...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) The Agriculture Department has a special force of about a hundred people who serve in other countries. These people gather data, promote U.S. farm products overseas and generally work as American representatives of agricultural interests. Doug Wakefield talks with some of these members of USDA's foreign service about the unique qualities of their jobs.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1524...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; 1987 commodity program options; 1987 feed grain land diversion; Economists to study impact of bovine growth hormone; New neighbors for farmers.

CONSUMER TIME #1016...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Preparing latchkey kids; Picking a good investment; Rural areas face city problems; Personal stereo perils; Aging and fat.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Wed, Nov. 5, Livestock and poultry outlook; Thurs, Nov. 6, Vegetable situation; Fri, Nov. 7 Cotton and wool situation; Mon, Nov. 10, U.S. crop production report, World supply and demand outlook, Soviet production report; Tues, Nov. 11 (Holiday, Veterans Day); Wed, Nov. 12, Crop and weather update, world crop production, world oilseed situation, world cotton situation. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

OFF MIKE

Brian Baxter (Morning Ag Report, Indianapolis, IN) and Bill Ray (Agrinet Farm Net, Richmond, VA) left Oct 30 with the U.S. Feed Grain Council on a two-week market assessment mission to Bulgaria, Egypt and Turkey. Brian said he hopes to be back in time to attend the NAFB meeting in Kansas City, and if anyone wants to know more about the trip to see him there ... If you missed it in the NAFB Inside Report, be now informed: Ed Johnson (Agri Broadcasting Net, Columbus, OH) was one of six who received Distinguished Alumnus Awards from Ohio State Univ for 1986. Our congratulations!! ... We also learn that Stewart Doan (Arkansas Radio net, Little Rock) has been nominated to a five year term on the Board of Governors of the Agricultural Hall of Fame. Since he and Farm Bureau president Nicky Hargrove are the only nominees to fill two positions, we understand election is virtually assured. Again, our congratulations!! ... We also learn that Ed Slusarczyk (Ag Radio Network, Utica, NY) was given an honorary membership to the Agricultural Teacher's Association of New York. The award was given to Ed for providing incentives to the ag teachers in the state both through his broadcasts and as a member of the New York State Education Department Advisory Committee. And still again, our congratulations!! ... Our Brenda Curtis-Heiken (USDA Radio Service) turned professor for a day recently. She was guest lecturer at Salem College in Salem, West Virginia, and spoke to five communication classes during the day and to broadcast majors and others in the evening. She returned tired but intrigued with the enthusiasm and eagerness of students ... Dave Carter (Radio-TV in USDA's Economic Management group) is looking for Public Affairs Specialist at the GS-11 pay level, with potential for promotion to GS-12. He's looking for someone with proven abilities to write, narrate and produce radio and TV programs. For more information, call Margaret-Whitley at 202-447-6130. Dave's number is 202-786-1494.

Jim Johnson

JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief, Radio and Television Division

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Farm Broadcasters Letter

Letter No. 2287

November 6, 1986

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E.C. LEVIES CURTAIL CORN IMPORTS

U.S. corn prices have declined 37 pct. during the past two years. And yet, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture report, U.S. corn exports to the European Community countries have dropped an estimated 70 pct. Why? The EC's sharply increasing corn import levy means that corn from countries outside the EC community cannot be imported except by the starch industry and then only when EC corn quality is unsuitable. USDA experts also report the levy apparently has increased more rapidly than changes in the world corn market and the official EC threshold prices warrant. This, the experts say, could lead one to believe that EC authorities have, in effect, decided to increase the margin of protection against corn imports in favor of domestic EC corn producers.

SOME FACTORS AFFECTING EXPORTS

A number of developments in October are affecting U.S. grain and feed exports, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture report. These include a reduction in the USSR's wheat and corn import needs this marketing year, and this may increase competitive pressure on U.S. exports outside the USSR market; Thailand is considering new steps to increase the prices its farmers receive for rice and to set a more aggressive rice marketing policy for 1987; Brazil is using more corn and this may lead to increased U.S. corn sales; and Nigeria has declared an immediate ban on wheat imports.

SOYBEAN SITUATION REPORT

The effective price floor for soybeans this marketing year is forecast at about $4.50, which is roughly the $4.77 loan rate less the 4.3 pct Gramm-Rudmann reduction, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture report. Price increases, if any, will be moderated by more than 450 million bushels of 1984 and 1985 crop soybeans under loan or owned by CCC. U.S. carryover stocks will continue to be burdensome. A 600-million-bushel carryover is forecast for the end of 1986/87. Adding to the supply situation is a world soybean production forecast that is 2 pct. higher that last season and 6 pct. over two years ago.

CHINA BUYS U.S. CORN..FIRST TIME IN 3 YEARS

For the first time in three years, China has bought some U.S. corn. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the purchase was for 30,000 tons of industrial-use corn. The report said the purchase was in an apparent response to the continued efforts of the U.S. Feed Grains Council and may signal improving prospects for U.S. corn sales to China. In recent years, China has imported only small amounts of corn from Thailand and South Africa while exporting 5 to 6 million tons to several important U.S. markets in Asia.

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A 21.34:

MARIJUANA WAR IN NATIONAL FORESTS

Almost 1,000 million acres of National Forests are considered unsafe for recreational uses and by U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service employees because the land has been commandeered by persons illicitly growing marijuana for profit. Booby traps connected to trip wires are a major hazard. New legislation authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to designate up to 500 law enforcement officers to investigate and enforce federal drug laws within the National Forest Service. Implementation of this new authority is underway, and Sec'y of Agric Richard Lyng said, "Our objective is very simple. We hope to make National Forests free of marijuana and safe for visitors."

CHANGE MADE IN COMMODITY CERTIFICATES

Farmers who obtain price support loans will no longer have the option of substituting their loan collateral while at the same time using generic commodity certificates to redeem their loan collateral. In making the announcement, Under Sec'y of Agric Daniel Amstutz said the storage situation that provided farmers with the substitution provisions a number of years ago has abated to the point that permitting this combination of options is no longer necessary.

NO CHANGE IN INTEREST RATE

Commodity loans made this month will carry the same 5-3/4 pct interest rate that was in effect in October, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The rate reflects the interest rate charged to the Commodity Credit Corporation by the U.S. Treasury.

PRICES RECEIVED AND PRICES PAID ARE BOTH DOWN

Farmers received almost one percent less for their commodities on average in October than in September, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Lower prices for hogs, corn, soybeans, eggs and lettuce were partially offset by higher prices for tomatoes, strawberries, milk, broilers and most small grain. On the other hand, the prices farmers paid also dropped just over half a percent.

MORE DETAILS RELEASED ON COTTON PROGRAM

The loan level for the base quality of 1987-crop upland cotton is 52.25 cents per pound, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Other provisions of the 1987 upland cotton program include: Plan B marketing loan program; No paid land diversion program; and a recourse loan program for upland seed cotton. As previously announced, a 25 pct. upland cotton acreage reduction program will be in effect.

WHEAT PROMO/ RESEARCH PROGRAM DROPPED

The wheat and wheat foods research and nutrition education order is now history. It was terminated Nov. 1, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Wholesale bakers, who contributed 73 pct. of the net funding, recently announced they no longer wish to fund the program.

DAIRY CATTLE TERMINATION PROGRAM UPDATE

An estimated 11,500 head of dairy cattle were slaughtered during the week ending Oct. 18 as a result of the Dairy Termination Program, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture report. Included were cows, heifers and calves. The cumulative total of cattle slaughtered under the program from April 1 through Oct. 18 is an estimated 823,300 head.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

MARIJUANA IN THE NATIONAL FORESTS...USDA Forest Service Chief Max Peterson talks about the National Forest System Drug Control Act of 1986, a new law recently passed by Congress, to protect national forests that are considered unsafe because of persons illegally growing marijuana. Vic Powell interviews. (311)

COMMODITY CERTIFICATE CHANGES...A change was recently announced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture regarding the system used by some producers to market their commodities and benefit from price support programs. Ralph Klopfenstein, USDA's deputy administrator of Commodity Operations, focuses on commodity certificates and changes under the provisions. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (312)

CURRENT OILSEEDS OUTLOOK...This year's soybean production is forecast at nearly 2 billion bushels, less than 1985 totals but adding to burdensome carryover stocks. USDA economist Roger Hoskin examines this situation and factors contributing to it. Vic Powell interviews. (313)

WORLD FOOD NEEDS AND AVAILABILITIES...To meet minimum nutritional standards, 69 developing countries around the world are estimated to be short nearly 14 million tons of cereals this winter. USDA economist Ray Nightingale describes the situation and what is limiting development. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (314)

NEW TAX LAWS AND FARMING...Allen Bock, University of Illinois, talks about the upcoming changes in the new 1986 tax code and offers suggestions and advice to farmers as to how they might deal with these news laws. Gary Beaumont interviews. (315)

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1536...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) 1986 tax reform and the American farmer. What impact will the new tax laws signed into effect by President Reagan have on farmers. Brenda Curtis talks to USDA economist Herb Moses for the answers.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1525...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Negotiating farm export deals; Dryland farming; Acreage reduction and agricultural businesses; High tech nematode control.

CONSUMER TIME #1018...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Good-bye tax write-offs; Turkey labels; Fresh turkey revival; The #1 turkey question; IRA's and the new tax laws.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Fri, Nov. 14, Milk production, cattle on feed; Tues, Nov. 18, Agricultural outlook, Weekly crop and weather; Thurs, Nov. 20, Catfish, farm labor, world agriculture. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

OFF MIKE

Mike Wiles (KTTS, Springfield, MO) has received recognition for his work in helping to develop and carry out local extension programs. His name has been added to the Extension Leaders' Honor Role at University of Missouri. Our congratulations! ... Kelly Lenz' latest newsletter from WIBW, Topeka, KS, reports on one way to use up butter...sculpt a cow from a block of it. A life-size cow, that is. Kelly reports WIBW and Kansas Ag Net co-sponsored the buttery likeness for the Kansas State Fair this year. And he reports that Kathy Patton of his staff and Rich Hull and Mark Vail of Kansas Ag Net won the "Celebrity Milk-Off" at the fair. (We suspect Kelly was in there pulling for them, too) ... Speaking of fairs and similar type events, Bob Bosold says he spent considerable time in October at the World Dairy Expo and Farm Progress Days. And he says about 1,700 visitors from other countries attended the Expo. As you would expect, Bob interviewed many of the visitors ... Our Gary Crawford has been getting some rave reviews lately. He's starring in the Prince William Little Theatre's production of "Fantastiks." Sings and everything ... We were looking through some file material and ran across a note from Johnny Martin (Ohio Farm Bureau, Columbus). We may have used it before, but it bears repeating. He said he had had an antique reel-to-reel recorder that was running off speed and had it repaired. The first tape he played after getting it back was Gary's Consumer Time item that featured a drunken, off-key chicken choir singing "Autumn Leaves." Johnny was ready to call the repair shop but the singing stopped and Gary came on...in a normal voice ... Probably by the time you read this, we'll be on our way to Kansas City and the NAFB meeting. Vic Powell and I from the Office of Information will be there, along with Will Pemple, USDA-ARS, Nelson Robinson, USDA-ASCS, Doug Wakefield, USDA-FAS, and, we think, Joe O'Neill, USDA-FmHA. Hope to see you there.

Jim Johnson

JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief, Radio and Television Division

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Farm Broadcasters Letter

Letter No. 2288 November 13, 1986

"EMBARGO DID NOT CAUSE FARM CRISIS"

A study prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture concludes that "embargoes did not cause the farm crisis of the 1980's." The study concludes that global macroeconomic factors and farm policy, not embargoes, largely account for farm problems in the 1980's, notably the high U.S. dollar, global recession, high foreign debt levels, high real interest rates, and foreign agricultural protectionism. The analysis of the effects of embargoes and surplus disposal programs was a joint government/ academic institution project, and included the USDA's Economic Research Service, 14 universities and one private research institution.

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KEY POLICY OBJECTIVES

The conclusions of the study by the U.S. Department of Agriculture that embargoes did not cause the farm crisis of the 1980's, underscore several key policy objectives of this Administration. First, the financial health of agriculture is dependent on responsible fiscal policy, according to a recently completed research study. The Federal budget deficit must be sharply reduced if the value of the dollar, interest rates, and economic growth are to improve farm economic conditions. Second, the study concludes embargoes do not hurt the intended victim but may hurt the embargoing nation. This principle guided the Administration's action in ending the 1980 grain embargo and undergirded the opposition to the recent South African embargo.

SUBSIDIES & FARM INCOME

According to a study by the U.S. Department of Agriculture on embargoes and the farm crisis of the 1980's, across-the-board export subsidies would have cost more than current policies and would not have changed farm income. The study also concludes that subsidies targeted at certain markets pay only if the markets are price sensitive and if other countries do not change their behavior. The conclusions of this study concerning export subsidies are that export subsidies are counterproductive.

ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIAN & EC SOVIET TRADE

Argentina has yet to sell any new crop wheat to the USSR and old crop coarse grain sales fell far short of the required 4 million tons in calendar year 1986, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It also appears that the European Community wheat sales to the USSR so far total less than 2 million tons. Australian wheat sales to the Soviets so far in 1986/87 have been slow to develop. The Australian Wheat Board recently reported that sales of 550,000 tons had been made.

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21.34:

USSR GRAIN EST. INCREASED

The 1986 Soviet grain crop is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 195 million metric tons, 15 million above last month's estimate. The increase includes 4 million metric tons of wheat, now estimated at 81 million tons; and 10 million coarse grains, now estimated 100 million tons. On Nov. 6, a senior official of the Soviet Politburo indicated that the 1986 grain crop is expected to be "about" 210 million tons. This statement will receive further consideration by the USDA, pending additional information.

USSR GRAIN IMPORT EST.

USSR grain purchases for delivery in the 1986/87 marketing year now total nearly 10 million tons, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This is well short of buying levels for comparable periods in recent years. The estimate of total USSR grain imports from all sources for July 1986 through June 1987 has been reduced by 6 million tons to 26 million. This would be the lowest level of grain imports since 1978/79 when a record crop was harvested. The estimate of wheat imports has been reduced by 2 million tons to 14 million, the lowest level of imports since 1979/80. The slow pace of USSR grain buying so far this marketing year may reflect a number of factors including sharply reduced foreign exchange earnings, increased domestic procurements of high quality wheat, improved grain crop prospects and a good forage crop harvest.

CANADA-USSR TRADE AGREEMENT

The sharply reduced estimate of the 1986/87 Soviet Union grain imports is likely to impact on most of the world's major grain shippers, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Canada appears to be in the most secure position as early season sales to the USSR are estimated at around 2 million 500 thousand tons. Canada and the USSR recently officially signed a new 5-year trade agreement calling for grain exports of 25 million tons over the Aug. 1986-July 1991 period. So far this year, a significant portion of the wheat shipped to the USSR has been feed wheat.

EXPORT ENHANCEMENT & THE USSR

Despite the inclusion of the USSR in the Export Enhancement Program for wheat for a brief period, no U.S. sales of wheat or corn have been reported so far in the 1986/87 July-June marketing year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. During each of the past 2 years, the USSR has failed to live up to its commitment to purchase for shipment during each Oct.-Sept. period a minimum of 4 million tons of wheat under the Long-Term Grain Agreement. USSR purchases of corn have exceeded agreement minimums. As yet, no sales were reported for shipment of corn during the Oct. 1986-Sept. 1987 period.

CROP PRODUCTION

The following are some highlights of the Nov. 10 Crop Production report of the U.S. Department of Agriculture: Corn for grain production is forecast at 8 billion 220 million bushels, down 7 pct. from last year's record high. Soybean production is forecast at 2 billion 10 million bushels, 4 pct. below last year. All cotton production is forecast at 9 million 870 thousand bales, 26 pct. below the 1985 crop. Sorghum grain production is forecast at 900 million bushels, 19 pct. less than the 1985 crop.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

U.S. WEATHER AND CROP UPDATE...USDA chief meteorologist Dr. Norton Strommen focuses on the sudden cold temperatures in many parts of the U.S. and how this weather is affecting various crop conditions. Deboria Janifer interviews. (316)

CURRENT VEGETABLE OUTLOOK... The value for some major fresh vegetables has gained an average of eight percent per year for the past 16 years. USDA economist Shannon Hamm takes a look at factors contributing to the increase in value as well as production and consumption. Vic Powell interviews. (317)

HEARTWATER AND THE TROPICAL BONT TICK... Heartwater is a serious disease that affects cattle and is transmitted by the Tropical Bont Tick. Dr. Ralph Bram with USDA's Agricultural Research Service describes this disease and efforts being taken to prevent it from entering the U.S. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (318)

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY OUTLOOK... Recent changes in the consumption of red meat and poultry are likely to become even greater next year. USDA economist Allen Baker examines the current situation and outlook for livestock and poultry. Vic Powell interviews. (319)

CHANGES IN AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS... Federal agricultural programs were altered by the 99th Congress during the last days before adjournment. USDa economist Terry Townsend reviews those changes and their impact on agricultural producers. Vic Powell interviews. (320)

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1538...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) There are thousands of species of fish in the ocean but Americans only seem to want to eat a few types. Fish and wildlife exports at the University of Massachusetts are working to change this trend by getting Americans to taste seafood such as squid. George Holmes reports.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1528...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; ASCS elections are coming up; Canada places a tariff on U.S. corn; Livestock producers and the 1986 tax law; The new Ag. Yearbook.

CONSUMER TIME #1019...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Turkeys: Beyond Thanksgiving; Middle income Americans and the new tax laws; The new tax laws and you; Holiday food problems; New meat inspection law.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE... Thurs, Nov. 20, Catfish report; Farm labor report; World ag. outlook; Mon, Nov. 24, World cocoa situation; Tues, Nov. 25, Weekly weather and crop outlook; Wed, Nov. 26, World dairy situation/outlook; Export markets for U.S. grains; Commercial fertilizer consumption. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

OFF MIKE

Joe Ellis is no longer with the Texas State Agribusiness Network. According to Bob Cockrum, Joe left the first part of October to go into private business. He'd been with the network about 5 years. Bob Walsh replaces Joe as farm Director. Bob had been in banking and prior to that was farm director at WBAP, Fort Worth ... A number of you have called to be placed on the mailing list to receive the listing of Outlook Conference sessions that will be available on the 900 telephone service. If you're not familiar with the 900 service, it's the one that charges you 50-cents for the first minute and 35-cents per minute for each additional minute. For instance, Sec'y of Agric Richard Lyng is scheduled to speak Wed., Dec. 3, for 15 minutes. By dialing the 900 number you can monitor (and record) his remarks for a phone call cost of $5.40 (unless, of course, you're on longer than 15 minutes). If you would like the schedule and phone number, let me know. The conference from Tues., Dec. 2 through 'til noon, Thurs., Dec. 4 ... Just received a call from Wayne Jenkins (Morning Ag Report, Indianapolis, IN) asking for a copy of the new Yearbook of Agriculture, "Research for Tomorrow." The book was officially released Nov. 10, the same day Wayne called, which is what you might call prompt. We have a limited number of free copies, so if you would like one, let me know ... Cindy Zimmerman (Independent Florida Agrinet, Ocala) recently received the Florida Farm Bureau outstanding newsperson of the year award for her reporting of agricultural news in the state. Our Congratulations! ... If you stop by Forrest Bradley's old address at Mid-America Dairymen, Inc., you won't find him. Mid-Am has moved. The new address is 3253 E. Chestnut Expressway in Springfield, MO. And for those who haven't met Forrest, he's Director of Communications at Mid-Am ... This was written just before leaving for Kansas City and the NAFB meeting, so we'll have the news from the meeting in this spot next week.

Jim Johnson

JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief
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Farm Broadcasters Letter

Letter No. 2289 November 20, 1986

WORLD WHEAT TRADE

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The world wheat trade is forecast to be 2 million 500 thousand tons lower this month, at 86 million 600 thousand tons, due primarily to reduced demand for wheat by the Soviet Union, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In the past two months, the forecast for world wheat trade has fallen more than 5 pct., largely because of the 5 million ton decline in Soviet import prospects. However, outside the USSR, wheat trade is forecast about 4 pct. higher in 1986/87 than in 1985/86.

SOVIET COARSE GRAIN FORECAST

This month, the 1986/87 coarse grain import forecast for the Soviet was dropped 4 million tons to 12 million tons by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to reflect improved crop prospects. The larger harvest will offset the significant decline. Further adding to the slow pace of coarse grain imports may be recent Soviet feed wheat purchases which already exceed 1 million tons.

SOVIET WHEAT IMPORT FORECAST

The 1986/87 wheat import forecast for the Soviet was cut 2 million tons from last month's forecast because of improved crop prospects and modest buying activity so far this marketing year. Of the 14 million ton import forecast for 1986/87, the Soviet has reportedly purchased less than 6 million tons, well behind the buying activity for comparable periods in recent years, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

CHINA MAY PURCHASE U.S. CORN

Reports indicate that China may purchase 200-300,000 tons of U.S. corn, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This would be in addition to China's recent purchase of 30,000 tons of U.S. corn after a 3-year absence from the U.S. market. However, it is unclear whether these purchases are intended to meet additional import demand or merely substitute for Thai corn which has not met Chinese quality standards. Nevertheless, the long-term potential for expansion of U.S. corn exports to China is bright.

U.S. WHEAT EXPORT PROSPECTS

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, export prospects for wheat for the U.S. dropped to 28 million tons this month, down 1½ million tons and the second lowest level in nearly 10 years. As a residual supplier, the U.S. may lose sales in non-Soviet markets as other exporters intensify their efforts following some loss of Soviet sales.

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A 21.34:

BRAZIL GOOD CUSTOMER

Brazil recently purchased more than 500,000 tons of U.S. corn and is reportedly planning to tender for large, additional volumes, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. To reflect this rapid import pace, the forecast for Brazilian purchases doubled to 2 million tons.

FORECAST FOR WHEAT, CORN & SOYBEAN EXPORTS

During 1986/87, U.S. wheat, corn and soybean exports are forecast by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to rise 12 pct. for wheat, 5 pct. for corn and 3 pct. for soybeans. These increases are not enough to drop stocks sharply, and suggestions have been made that the Sec'y of Agriculture implement marketing loans to raise exports further. However, if marketing loans had been implemented for 1986/87, wheat exports might be only about 30 million bushels higher than without the loans, at a cost of $8 to $9 per added export bushel. The per-bushel cost of extra corn and soybean exports would also have been well above current market prices.

ACREAGE REDUCTION PROGRAM

A large-scale acreage reduction program designed to idle 125 million acres, or about half of the program acreage base, could raise U.S. farm prices 30 to 40 pct. above 1985/86. As a consequence, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture report, Government outlays for price and income supports would fall to nearly zero after several years, and farmers' net cash income would probably rise. However, large farm price increases would likely reduce U.S. farm exports 30 to 50 pct. Also, the mix of foods purchased by domestic consumers would shift away from more expensive high-value products in response to a 30-35 pct. rise in retail food prices. These declines would cut agriculture's contribution to the U.S. GNP by $50 to $75 billion per year. As many as 2 million jobs might be lost on farms and in the inputs and marketing industries. The immediate cost to the economy would be greater than current Government outlays for the farm programs.

CASH INCOME FOR CROPS & LIVESTOCK

The net cash income for crop farms is expected to be down in 1986, going from 1985's average $27,000 per farm to about $25,000, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Government payments to crop farms will rise more than 50 pct., cushioning this year's drop in commodity prices. Lower expenses should save crop farms more than $3 billion in 1986. For the livestock sector, net cash income per farm may climb more than $3,500. The average livestock operation, which typically includes some crop production, has cash income of more than $17,000 this year, because of higher prices, production and Gov't payments and lower expenses.

CANADA'S DUTY VS. U.S. CORN

Canada's preliminary decision to impose a countervailing duty of $1.05 per bushel on imports of U.S. corn will probably sharply curtail U.S. corn exports to that country, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Currently the average farm price of U.S. corn is about $1.50 per bushel, and the current cash price of corn in Canada is $1.60 per bushel. U.S. corn exports to Canada had been forecast to total 500,000 tons for 1986/87. Canada charged the U.S. with subsidizing corn exports to Canada. After a final review of the issue of subsidization and the resulting injury caused to Ontario corn growers, the Canadian government will issue a final decision within 120 days.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

CURRENT AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOL...USDA economist Herb Moses outlines outlines some of the factors contributing to the current agricultural outlook, including cash income for farmers and the current forecast for U.S. exports of wheat, corn and soybeans. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (321)

COTTON AND WOOL OUTLOOK...The latest cotton forecast places upland cotton stocks at less than 6 million bales, nearly a 40 percent decline. USDA economist Bob Skinner focuses on factors contributing to this decline as well as the outlook for U.S. cotton producers in 1987. Vic Powell interviews. (322)

CURRENT U.S. CROP ESTIMATES...Large crops abroad have prompted a reduction in U.S. grain export projections. USDA economist David Hull examines the current world agricultural supply and demand estimates and its effect on world trade. Vic Powell interviews. (323)

FORCED MOLTING...Janice Bahr, University of Illinois, describes research work being conducted to make chickens lay more and better eggs through a hormone that forces molting. Gary Beaumont interviews. (324)

ARS RESEARCH FEATURES...USDA agricultural research scientists are: discovering that barley and oats can reduce cholesterol levels; and measuring root strength in plants to protect the future of food crops. Will Pemble reports. (325)

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1538...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) Giving food away to nations who can't afford to buy it can actually help boost sales of U.S. farm products. On this edition of Agriculture USA, experts explain this apparent paradox. Doug Wakefield reports.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1527...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Embargoes don't work; New crop certificates on the market; New provisions for crop certificates; Another farm bill battle.

CONSUMER TIME #1020...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Planning your holiday shopping; Helping towns with waste water problems; Synthetic sugars; There's more to food aid than food; Involving kids in the holidays.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Thurs, Nov. 25, Weekly crop and weather; Fri, Nov. 28, Agricultural prices; Tues, Dec. 2, Exports. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

OFF MIKE

Evan Slack (Evan Slack Network, Denver, CO) is the new president of NAFB. His swan song as president-elect included serving as program chairman for this year's national meeting in Kansas City. And the meeting was a gem. Hallway comments we overheard included "The best meeting I've attended," "Terrific," (We also heard that a lot after Patrick Dooley's session on "How to Have a Good Day--Every Day"), and similar accolades. So, to Evan and crew, our congratulations! ... Lots of awards given out. Skip Ragland presented the Ciba-Geigy "Farm broadcaster of the Year" award to Paul Pippert (WIBW, Topeka, KS). And Skip presented the coveted "Foot in Mouth" award to Ken Tanner (WRAL-TV/Tobacco Net, Raleigh, NC) ... Ron Hays (Oklahoma Agrinet, Oklahoma City) presented the "Meritorious Service Award" to this writer, and we thank the NAFB members for this honor and affirmation that we must be doing something right ... The first two honorees were entered into the Agriculture Hall of Fame, Bonners Springs, KS: Larry Haeg, first NAFB president, now deceased; and Bob Buice, long-time NAFB historian ... NAFB also paid tribute to two other long-time members who have made substantial contributions to the organization over the years: John Baker, author of the book "Farm Broadcasting: The First 60 Years" and Milt Bliss, perennial convention coordinator for many years. Both received special "laser clocks" and lifetime honorary NAFB membership ... New NAFB officers are: President, Evan Slack (Evan Slack Network, Denver); President-elect, Dix Harper (WRAL-TV/Tobacco Network, Raleigh, NC); Secretary, Mark Vail (Kansas Ag Net, Topeka, KS); Historian, Craighton Knau (KMA, Shenandoah, IA); NE Regional VP, Marla Behrends (WKAN, Kankakee, ILL); NC Regional VP Jerry Passer (WMT, Cedar Rapids, IA); SC Regional VP Ray Forcier (KWKH, Shreveport, LA); SE Regional VP, Dan Gordon (Tennessee Agrinet, Nashville); and West Regional VP, Taylor Brown (Northern Ag Net, Billings, MT) ... More next week.

JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief, Radio and Television Division

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Farm Broadcasters Letter

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Letter No. 2290 DEC 10 1986 November 26, 1986

WORLD ECONOMIC GROWTH TO RECOVER

The world economic growth in 1987 is expected to recover to 1985's 2.9 pct., after slowing to an estimated 2.5 for 1986, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Lower oil prices and interest rates, and stronger Japanese and European currencies, will stimulate growth among the industrialized countries. This, in turn, will increase the demand for developing country exports. Rising prices for exports, plus the lower cost of imported oil and the opportunity to reschedule debts at reduced interest rates, will enhance developing-country growth into 1988.

GLOBAL FEED GRAIN PRODUCTION

The global feed grain production in 1986/87, at more than 830 million tons, is forecast by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to be second only to 1985/86, when domestic production was almost 25 million tons larger. Offsetting the U.S. decline somewhat, foreign production will likely grow by about 6 million tons. Production for 1986/87 in foreign coarse-grain exporting countries - including Argentina, Australia, Canada, S. Africa and Thailand - is only marginally larger, at 66 million tons. However feed-quality wheat, particularly from Canada and Australia, is competing with coarse grain exports this year.

U.S. FEED GRAIN SITUATION

The current feed grain situation is charscterized by record carryin, large crops, static demand, and low prices, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Although 9 pct. below last year's record, the 1986 U.S. feed grain crop is still large, at 250 million metric tons, despite heavy participation in the feed grain acreage reduction program. The average yield per acre of 2.47 tons exceeds last year's record 2.45 tons. Corn yields are expected to average 119.3 bushels per acre, exceeding the 1985 record. The 1986/87 corn supply is estimated at 12 billion 300 million bushels, 14 pct. above the 1982/83 record.

EC TARGETS MEDITERRANEAN

The European Community offered a special one-day wheat subsidy of $24 per metric ton, on top of the current $133 per ton export subsidy for wheat destined to Egypt and Algeria, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In the past two months, the EC has been offering sharply reduced wheat export prices in the Mediterranean in an effort to regain market share and reduce burgeoning wheat surpluses.

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A 21.84:

A SOVIET FIRST IN 6 YRS.

For the first time in 6 years, the Soviet Union has published grain data by grain type. Indications are that Soviet production in 1986/87 is better than anticipated. The U.S. Department of Agriculture raised its forecast of the Soviet crop to 195 million tons, above the previous year and the second largest this decade.

TRADE WITH MEXICO AND JAPAN

The United States incurred its worst agricultural trade deficit with Mexico during fiscal 1986, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Several factors contributed to lower Mexican import demand, including larger output of major crops and falling oil prices. At the same time, U.S. imports from Mexico were record high. U.S. agricultural exports to Japan fell to their lowest since 1979. Declining exports and record imports drove the fiscal 1986 U.S. agricultural trade balance down to $5 billion 400 million, the lowest since 1972. In fiscal 1987, rising volume is expected to help offset lower prices.

REVISIONS IN ASCS PROGRAM

The U.S. Department of Agriculture plans to change the way commodity certificates are exchanged for Commodity Credit Corporation-owned stock. The changes are effective Dec. 1. They include: Commodity values will be determined on the basis of a comparison of at least two applicable terminal markets instead of one; All certificate exchange requests must be made by telephone; New catalogs listing CCC commodities eligible for exchange will be issued. For more information, contact your local USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

RESEARCH RESULTS ON COMPUTERS

A new computer service offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture will provide data 24 hours a day on the latest research coming from USDA laboratories. The service is free to companies as well as commodity and farm organizations. The service, known as TEKTRAN, is based at the Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, MD. Users can connect their computers and telephone modems to the service on a first come, first served basis. They pay only telephone changes. There are at least 7000 summaries in the computer and about 300 new entries filed each month. (For more information, contact James Hall, 301/344-4045.)

RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production for the U.S. in Oct. 1986 totaled 3 billion 500 million pounds, down 1 pct. from Oct. 1985, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Beef production at 2 billion 150 million pounds, 2 pct. above 1985. Pork production at 1 billion 280 million pounds, was down 6 pct. from Oct. 1985. Lamb and mutton production, at 30 million pounds, was down 9 pct. from Oct. 1985. Veal production, at 44 million pounds, was down 4 pct. from Oct. 1985.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT IN AGRICULTURE

A training program called "Business Management in Agriculture," was developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Cooperative Extension Service, in cooperation with the Farm Credit System. This program uses videotapes to help farmers and ranchers develop financial management skills. It's designed for use by county Extension agents to assist farmers and ranchers in their local communities. For more information, contact your local Extension Office.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

WORLD AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK...USDA economist Cecil Davison examines the situation and outlook for world agriculture including factors that are expected to stimulate world economic growth in 1987. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (326)

FEED OUTLOOK...Record carryin, large crops, static demand and low prices characterize the current feed grain situation. USDA economist David Hull focuses on current yields and how farm prices might be affected by large supplies aned moderate demand. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (327)

IMPACT OF DECLINE IN U.S. EXPORTS...The sharp downturn in U.S. agricultural exports has had ripple effects in the farming communities that depend on sales of "export-oriented" crops. USDA economist Judith Sommer talks about a study recently conducted to determine where the decline has hit the hardest. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (328)

WETLANDS TO FARMLANDS...USDA economist Ralph Heimlich focuses onn actions being taken to halt conversion of wetlands to farmlands and how these actions will affect agricultural production. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (329)

ARS SCIENTISTS OF THE YEAR AWARDS...USDA biochemist Dr. Philip Kearney was among the leading scientists honored at a recent ceremony in Washington, D.C. for outstanding scientific advances made during the year. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (330)

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1539...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) Scientists are unveiling dozens of new varieties of houseplants and flowers. Brenda Curtis has a report.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1528...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; National Commission on Dairy Policy; Handling rural waste water; High tech nematode control.

CONSUMER TIME #1021...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Christmas tree prices; A second hand rose; Are older mothers happy?; Problems of young female athletes; Some sensible party food.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...(coverage of Outlook Conference continues) Wed, Dec. 3, Stories will include outlook excerpts re wheat, cotton, tobacco, feed grains, oilseeds, fruits/vegs, food prices, livestock (or as many stories as we can fit onto our 10:30 news carts); Thurs, Dec. 4, Outlook stories on farm income, credit, trade issues; Tues, Dec. 9, Horticultural products, crop and weather update; Wed, Dec. 10, U.S. crop production; world supply and demand, Soviet crop outlook; Fri, Dec. 12, Milk production, world crop production, world cotton situation, world oilseed situation. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

OFF MIKE

Before going any further, we want to tip our hat to Ken Root (KWCH-TV/KBS, Hutchinson, KS) for a job well done as NAFB president. He passed the president's gavel (two in fact) to Evan Slack (Evan Slack Net, Denver, CO) at the Saturday night NAFB banquet in Kansas City, but not before hearing the history of his personal and professional lives in rhyme written and delivered by Russell Pierson. A truly note-worthy epic poem ... Bill Satterfield will be leaving WSBY/WQHQ, Salisbury/Ocean City, Maryland, to become the executive assistant for the Delmarva Poultry Industry. Consequently, the stations are looking for his replacement. If you're interested, call 301-742-1923 ... Ron Arp has left KWHT/Pacific Northwest Farm Net, Pendleton, OR, and is the communication director for the Nebraska Beef Board. KWHT station owner/manager Andy Harle is looking for a replacement. His number is 503-278-2500 ... New man at Brownfield Network, Centertown, MO, is Dick Marshall. He replaces Brent Thompson, who is now with KWTO, Springfield, MO ... More from the NAFB meeting. The DeKalb "Oscars in Agriculture" awards were handed out by Bob Pritchard. The winner in the radio category was Art Sechrest (WJBC/Farm Radio Illinois, Bloomington). Honorable mention went to Rich Balvanz (WMT, Cedar Rapids, IA). In the individual TV category, Mike Miller (KOLN/KGIN-TV, Lincoln, NE) walked off with the Oscar. The team effort TV Oscar went to William Cole, Dale Carpenter, and Mike Mottler (Arkansas Educational TV Network. Honorary mention team effort awards went to Bryce Anderson and Jim Fackler (WOWT-TV, Omaha, NE) and to the MacNeil-Lehrer NewsHour ... We will be conducting a Telephone Press Conference for farm broadcasters, December 16, with Sec'y of Agric Richard Lyng from 11:00 -11:30 a.m. EST. If you would like to participate, call by 5:00 p.m. EST, Dec. 12. Our number is 202-447-4330. Ask for me, Margaret, or Florence.

Jim Johnson

JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief
Radio and Television Division

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Farm Broadcasters Letter

Letter No. 2291 December 3, 1986

DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture will make approximately $2 billion 100 million in additional deficiency payments to eligible producers of 1986-crop wheat, barley and oats. Eligible wheat farmers will receive about $2 billion; barley producers about $55 million, and oat producers about $25 million in additional deficiency payments for this year's crops. About $1 billion 400 million in advance deficiency payments has already been paid to wheat producers; $150 million to barley producers and $15 million to oat producers.

U.S. CORN EXPORT FORECAST

The 1986/87 U.S. export forecast for corn was decreased by 2 million 600 thousand tons to 33 million tons, largely as a result of a 25 pct. fall to 8 million 800 thousand tons in expected purchases by the USSR. This export forecast by the U.S. Department of Agriculture is still a modest improvement of 1 million 500 thousand tons over the previous year, and the estimated U.S. share of world trade remains at around 58 percent.

CANADIAN WHEAT AND THE WEATHER

A spell of heavy rain during Sept. and Oct. delayed harvesting of the latter half of a record Canadian crop of 31 million 300 thousand tons, resulting in a decline in the quality of the 1986 wheat crop. The feed wheat estimate is 5 million 300 thousand tons. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, sales of this feed wheat are likely to compete directly with U.S. corn, particularly in Korea and Mexico. Canada has already exported 44,000 tons of feed wheat to Mexico.

CORN FOR TAIWAN

South Africa has agreed to supply Taiwan with 1 million 800 thousand tons of corn from Jan. 1987 through Dec. 1989, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The return of South Africa to Taiwan's corn market may displace U.S. corn since the U.S. supplied virtually all Taiwan's corn for the past few years, amounting to about 3 million tons per year over the past 3 years.

EXPORT VOLUME TO RISE

Led by lower prices, the volume of U.S. agricultural exports is expected to rise to 116 million 500 thousand tons in fiscal 1987, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The over 9 million ton increase from 1986 is due to larger grain and cotton shipments. Export value for 1987 may decline slightly to $26 billion, down $300 million from 1986, as lower prices offset volume increase.

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RECORD FOREIGN GRAIN PRODUCTION

Record foreign wheat and coarse grain production and a potential rebound in foreign soybean harvests will constrain U.S. agricultural exports in fiscal 1987, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Soviet Union, a leading grain importer, appears to have harvested its biggest grain crop in 7 years. World grain trade is expected to remain comparatively low and strongly competitive, with exportable surpluses in many countries that are not traditional exporters.

DAIRY TERMINATION CONTINUES

An estimated 9,700 head of dairy cattle were slaughtered in federally-inspected plants during the week ending Nov. 15 as a result of the Dairy Termination Program, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The cumulative total of cattle slaughtered under the program from April 1 through Nov. 15 is estimated at 861,800 head.

CCC LOAN INTEREST RATE: 5-3/4%

Commodity loans disbursed in Dec. by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation will carry a 5-3/4 pct. interest rate, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The rate is the same as in November.

U.S. WHEAT TO ARGENTINA

For the first time since 1973, Argentina has reportedly purchased 12,500 tons of U.S. durum wheat for December delivery, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This reflects a shortfall in domestic durum production. There is the potential for additional purchases of 35,000 to 55,000 tons of either U.S. or Canadian durum. The rapid decline in durum wheat production in Argentina from a peak of 700,000 tons in 1968 to 30,000 to 50,000 tons in 1985 is due to the introduction of higher yielding varieties of other wheats with higher net returns.

AUSTRALIAN WHEAT TO USSR

The recent sale of 550,000 tons of new crop Australian wheat to the USSR for delivery before Jan. 1, 1987, means that Australia will remain a major contender in this year's diminishing USSR wheat market, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Last year, 1985/86, Australia shipped a total of 3 million 200 thousand tons, accounting for 20 pct. of the USSR's wheat import market. The expansion by Australia into the USSR has been largely at the expense of the U.S. and Argentina. These two countries combined had wheat sales in 1985/86, accounting for less than 5 pct. of the market. In contrast, in 1984/85, the U.S. accounted for 21 pct. and Argentina 15 pct. of USSR wheat purchases.

AUSTRALIA WHEAT TO CHINA

Australia has sold 1 million 500 thousand tons of wheat to China for delivery between Jan. and May 1987, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This sale continues the recent upward trend in Australian wheat exports to China, which have virtually doubled from a 5-year average of 1 million 400 thousand tons to the 2 million 700 thousand tons shipped in 1985/86. Meanwhile, U.S. wheat exports to China have declined steadily from a peak of 8 million 700 thousand tons in 1980/81 to 541,000 tons in 1985/86, a 95 pct. reduction.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

CURRENT U.S. WEATHER UPDATE... Colder temperatures are setting in and farmers are now preparing various crops, lands and livestock for the winter season. USDA chief meteorologist Dr. Norton Strommen focuses on the latest weather and crop update for the U.S. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (331)

GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS AND FARM SURVIVAL... Dave Lins, University of Illinois, takes a look at advantages and disadvantages of Government programs and how Government payments can sometimes make the difference between surviving on the farm or not. Gary Beaumont interviews. (332)

FARM VALUE, LABOR AND THE FOOD DOLLAR... The cost of labor to transform farm commodities into consumer-ready foods is taking an increasing share of the food dollar while the share going back to the farmer is declining. USDA economist Denis Dunham talks about reasons behind this situation. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (333)

NEW TAX LAWS AND AGRICULTURE...USDA economist Terry Townsend describes some of the changes in the new tax law recently signed by President Reagan, and how these changes will affect agriculture. Vic Powell interviews. (334)

CHANGES IN AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS... Federal agricultural programs were altered by the 99th Congress during the last days before adjournment. USDA economist Terry Townsend reviews those changes and their impact on agricultural producers. Vic Powell interviews. (335)

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1541...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) Where's the Beef? On this edition of Agriculture USA, Gary Crawford talks with several experts about what's happening to the beef industry and what producers are trying to do about it.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1541...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; 1986 deficiency payments; Diversifying farm operations; Agriculture outlook '87; Smart farm machines.

CONSUMER TIME #1022...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Last minute Christmas Tree advice; Posies at the marketplace; Holiday charge card dangers; Female exercises and disease; Hearing problems.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE... Wed, Dec. 10, Crop production, World agriculture supply and demand; Fri, Dec. 12, Milk production; Mon, Dec. 15, Cattle on feed, Tobacco; Tues, Dec. 16, Dairy, weekly crop and weather. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

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USDA RADIO FEATURES. A monthly script service featuring a variety of short items on a variety of subjects. For sample copy, write Jim Johnson.

OFF MIKE

Wey Simpson left KXLY in Spokane, November 28, and is back at his old stompin' grounds. Only it's not KHQ anymore. New owners changed the call letters to KAQQ. Wey's new phone number is 509-488-4617 ... Kathleen Lonergan (Agri Radio Net, Little Rock, AR) has been a frequent visitor to our radio studio much of this week. She's been covering the annual USDA Outlook Conference. We understand some other broadcasters have been around, but so far we haven't seen them to find out who they are ... More catching up information from the NAFB meeting in Kansas City: For instance, we learned that Conrad Burns (Northern Ag Net, Billings, MT) was elected county commissioner of Yellowstone County. We met the NAFB Scholarship winners. They are: Pamela Jahnke, University of Wisconsin, $2,000; Michael Shannon, University of Arizona, $1,500; Lori Sticzka, So. Dakota University, $1,500; Karl Fruendt, University of Oklahoma; and Anita Hughes, Auburn University, $1,500. The four $1,500 scholarships were made possible by a grant from R.J.Reynolds/Nabisco. And the first place scholarship was increased $500 to $2,000 by a Dana and Edith Bennett grant. We also honored some long-timers in NAFB. Receiving a 30-year tenure award was Evan Slack (Evan Slack Net, Denver, CO); 35-year awards went to Jack Crowner (Farm Service Net, Louisville, KY, Keith Kirkpatrick (WHO, Des Moines, IA), and Bill McReynolds (WOAI, San Antonio, TX); a 40-year award was presented to Harry Martin (Indiana Rural Radio Net, New Palestine, IN); and, believe it or not, NAFB has two 50-year tenure award members. They are Herb Plambeck, Des Moines, IA, and Bob Buice (Agri Radio Net, Little Rock, AR) ... Finally, Skip Ragland (Ciba-Geigy, Greensboro, NC) offered a free copy of John Baker's book, "Farm Broadcasting: The First 60 Years" to anyone who wants one, as long as the supply lasts. His company acquired the final supply of the book from the publisher.

Jim Johnson

JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief, Radio and Television Division

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Farm Broadcasters Letter

Letter No. 2292 December 11, 1986

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USSR 1986 GRAIN CROP

The 1986 Soviet grain crop is estimated at 210 million metric tons, 15 million above last month's estimate, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The total area estimate has been reduced by one million hectares (2½ million acres) - all the reduction occurring in corn. The upward revision in production includes 6 million tons of wheat, now estimated at 87 million, and 8 million tons of coarse grains, now estimated at 108 million. The estimate of miscellaneous grains and pulses was increased by one million to 15 million tons.

USSR TRADE AGREEMENTS

The following is a partial list of agreements or arrangements which could impact on the level of USSR grain imports during July-June 1986/87, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture:
Canada - an agreement that calls for the export of 25 million tons of grain during Aug. 1986-July 1991 period.
Argentina's - 5-year agreement calls for annual calendar year shipments of 4 million tons of coarse grain. Wheat purchases will count towards the agreement.
France - an agreement which calls for annual wheat trade in the area of 1.5 to 3 million tons.

THE DOLLAR IN FY 1987

The dollar is expected to continue to weaken on foreign exchange markets in 1987. However, indications - such as the Oct. 31 exchange rate stabilization understanding between Japan and the U.S. - are that the changes will no longer be as great. The dollar has fallen approximately 40 pct. against the yen and the mark since its Feb. 1985 peak. However, exchange rate shifts between the U.S. and its major agricultural competitors have not been nearly as favorable, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This situation is expected to continue in 1987.

U.S. EXPORTS TO W. EUROPE

U.S. agricultural exports to Western Europe dropped for the fourth consecutive year in fiscal 1986, but the decline was the smallest of the period, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In 1987, another small decline is expected. Grains remain the largest U.S. agricultural export to the region. High EC grain stocks and the subsidizing of exports are encouraging consumption of EC's domestic grain.

COTTON EXPORTS STRONG

U.S. cotton exports continued strong during Oct., totaling 342,000 bales, the largest Oct. level since 1979, reports the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The major markets this season are Japan, S. Korea, the European Community, Taiwan and Indonesia.

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USSR GRAIN IMPORTS FOR 1986/87 DOWN

The estimate of USSR grain imports for the 1986/87 marketing year has been reduced to 21 million tons, down 5 million from the month earlier estimate and the lowest level of imports since 1978/79, when the USSR harvested a record crop. USSR grain purchases from all origins still total only around 10 million tons, with Canada and the European Community the largest suppliers to date, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

DURUM WHEAT SHORTAGE IN ARGENTINA

Argentina's durum wheat production has declined substantially in recent years, totaling only about 30 to 40 thousand tons in 1985/86, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This represents the smallest crop since the record 1969/70 harvest of 760,000 tons. The sharp decline was partially due to heavy rains and flooding during the growing season.

FISCAL 1987 EXPORTS

The volume of U.S. agricultural exports, led by lower prices, is expected to rise to 116 million 500 thousand tons in fiscal 1987, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Most of the increase is stemming from larger grain and cotton shipments. The export value may decline slightly to $26 billion as lower prices offset the volume increases. A record foreign wheat and coarse grain production and a potential rebound in foreign soybean harvests will constrain U.S. agricultural exports in fiscal 1987. The Soviet Union appears to have harvested its biggest grain crop in 7 years.

USSR COARSE GRAIN IMPORTS FOR 1986/87

The estimate of USSR coarse grain imports for the 1986/87 marketing year has been reduced by 3 million tons to 8 million. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, this would be the lowest level of USSR coarse grain purchases since 1976/77. To date, Soviet grain buyers are estimated to have covered 3 to 4 million tons of their estimated 1986/87 import needs. It appears there are only limited opportunities for Argentina and the U.S. coarse grain sales.

USSR WHEAT IMPORTS, 1986/87

The estimate of wheat imports by the USSR has been reduced an additional 2 million tons to 12 million, the lowest level since 1979/80, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Wheat imports could well be even lower except that the USSR appears to be importing significant quantities of feed-quality wheat from Canada and the European Community. USSR wheat purchases so far this marketing year are estimated at around 6 million tons. Canada has been the major seller, followed by the EC and Australia. Argentina and the U.S. have yet to make sales to the USSR for this fiscal year.

AFRICAN CORN TO KOREA

South Korea purchased 40,000 metric tons of South African corn for delivery in January at $89.94 per ton, cost and freight. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, this is the largest S. African sale to Korea in five years and almost double the amount sold in all of 1985/86. This sale could signal S. Africa's intention to become a more important supplier to Korea, which would intensify competition with the U.S., Thailand, China and Argentina. U.S. corn exports to S. Korea have declined steadily from 3 million 900 thousand tons in 1982/83 to 1 million 300 thousand tons in 1985/86. The U.S. share of the Korean corn market dropped from 99 pct. to 38 pct. during the same period.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT FOR FARMERS...A training program using videotapes to help farmers and ranchers develop financial management skills was recently unveiled by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Cooperative Extension Service. Buel Lanpher with USDA's Extension Service focuses on this program and its importance. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (336)

OUTLOOK FOR SHEEP AND HOGS...Pork production is expected to continue its decline during the first half of 1987, but net returns are expected to remain relatively high. USDA economist Leland Southard examines the current and future outlook for producers. Vic Powell interviews. (337)

CURRENT EC ISSUES...Rules are still being defined for implementing the transition of Spain and Portugal into the European Economic Community's Agricultural Policy, a situation that is expected to lead to higher costs of imported U.S. grain in both countries. USDA economist Mark Newman takes a look at the accession of Spain and Portugal into the EC. Vic Powell interviews. (338)

CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE...The 1985 Farm Bill made some far reaching changes in the administration of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Conservation programs. George Dunlop, Assistant Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, describes those changes and how they will affect farmers. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (339)

DAIRY PRICES AND PRODUCTS...Milk prices are increasing at the retail level. Dry weather in the Southeast, increased demand for dairy products and the Dairy Herd buyout program are some of the factors. Mike Hutjens, University of Illinois, takes a look at dairy prices and products. Gary Beaumont interviews. (340)

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1541...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) Brenda Curtis and Dr. Marc Cathey, Director, National Arboretum of the USDA, take you on a trip back in time so you can celebrate a colonial Christmas as was, perhaps, celebrated in historic Williamsburg, Virginia.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1530...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Ag. outlook update; Insects in stored grain; Bugs, bugs and more bugs; Diversified agriculture.

CONSUMER TIME #1023...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) A Williamsburg Christmas; Food price forecast; Some firsts for the National Capitol Christmas Tree; Burnout: What is it? Beef promotion.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Fri, Dec. 19, The catfish report; Mon, Dec. 22, Hogs and pigs and livestock report; Tues, Dec. 23, Weekly weather and crop report. Mon, Dec. 29, Export markets for U.S. grains. Tues, Dec. 30, Weekly weather and crop report. Wed, Dec. 31, Ag. prices report. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

OFF MIKE

You may remember Steve Wade. He used to be at USDA as radio-TV specialist with ASCS. He's now with the Bureau of Reclamation in Boise, Idaho. He called to report he's a first time grandfather, and that's nice. Our congratulations! ... Pat Hagerty, who, for six years, produced stories out of Washington, D.C. for Orion Samuelson (WGN, Chicago) is now working for the National Pork Producers Council in D.C. in the Government Affairs office. If you want to contact Pat for information concerning the D.C. end of what's happening in the pork industry, his number is 202-347-0911 ... It's always fun to get photographs showing how farm broadcasters go about doing their job. The latest to arrive shows Hugh Robinson (KKOW, Pittsburg, KS) sitting at a console, script in hand, earphones aboard, and looking business-like while The Joplin Globe newspaper photographer took his picture to accompany a story. The story had nice things to say about Hugh's role in informing farmers, and mentioned that he had received the first place honors in agriculture service for non-metro radio broadcasters by the Kansas Association of Broadcasters. Our congratulations! ... Newest newsletter to hit our desk is Ron Hays' "Agrinet Downlink." In it he reveals that he was the only electronic journalist chosen to participate in the departmental review of the Ag Information Department of Oklahoma State University's Agriculture Division ... Speaking of things academic, Doug Thomas (Southern States Network, Baton Rouge, LA) served on a committee to investigate ways the communication skills of Louisiana State University College of Agriculture students can be improved. He also reports he went on a one-day cattle drive and is still trying to figure out how to get back to walking properly. (One step at a time, Doug, no matter how rocky they may be) ... Final thought: From Johnny Martin (Ohio Farm Bureau, Columbus)..."If you want to be alone, drive 55 MPH on any highway."

JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief
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Farm Broadcasters Letter

JAN 20 1987

Letter No. 2293 December 18, 1986

FARM EXPORTS COULD RISE

Several factors could double the growth of foreign demand for farm products in the late 1980's, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. These include expanding incomes, declining inflation, lower interest rates, and world population growth of about 80 million a year. World farm trade could increase 3 to 4 pct. a year, as it did in the 1950's and 1960's. With the U.S. improving its price competitiveness under the 1985 Farm Act, the volume of U.S. farm exports could rise 4 to 5 pct. a year.

WORLD COARSE GRAIN PROD. 1986/87

The world production for coarse grains for 1986/87 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 836 million 500 thousand tons, up 6 million 100 thousand or less than 1 pct. from last month, but down 1 pct. from the record 1985/86 harvest. USSR's production is estimated at 108 million tons, up 8 million or 8 pct. from last month and last year. India's coarse grain production is estimated at 28 million tons, down 2 million 600 thousand or 9 pct. from last month, but 7 pct. above last year. Canada's production is estimated at a record 27 million 600 thousand tons, up 700 thousand or 2 pct. from last month and up 11 pct. from last year. The European Community's production is estimated at 81 million 100 thousand tons, down 8 pct. from last year.

EC TO REMAIN COMPETITOR

The European Community is likely to remain a stiff competitor for grain export markets over the next several years, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. High internal grain prices continue to boost production there. Trends suggest that the USSR and other centrally planned countries as a group will not be a source of growth in world trade in the late 1980's. Grain trade prospects are more favorable in East Asia, North Africa, the Middle East and Central America.

NEW CANADIAN SUBSIDIES

The Canadian Government's decision to provide up to one billion Canadian dollars - $750 million in U.S. - in subsidy payments to farmers could help keep marginal Canadian producers in business by insulating them from a downward trend in world prices and import demand for agricultural products. In announcing this program, the Canadian Government referred to the "subsidy war between the U.S. and the European Community" as a motive for the subsidy, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

United States Department of Agriculture Office of Information
Radio-Television Division Phone (202) 447-4330 Washington D.C. 20250

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SUGAR IMPORT QUOTA

Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng announced that total authorized quota shipments of imported sugar for 1987 would be just over 1 million short tons, raw value. That's down 41 pct. from the current quota of just over 1 million 700 thousand tons and the lowest level in nearly 100 years. Lyng said that the sharp reduction is the result of a continued increase in domestic sweetener production, including corn sweeteners, coupled with a decline in domestic consumption of cane and beet sugar. Said Lyng, "If current trends continue, in another two years the existing sugar program will make the U.S. self sufficient in sweetener production for the first time in history."

WORLD WHEAT PRODUCTION

The world wheat production for 1986/87 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at a record 521 million 700 thousand tons, up 8 million 100 thousand tons or 2 pct. from last month and up 4 pct. from the 1985/86 harvest. USSR's wheat production is estimated at 87 million tons, up 6 million or 7 pct. from last month and up 11 pct. from last year. Australia's wheat production is estimated at 17 million 500 thousand tons, up 1 million 500 thousand or 9 pct. from last month and up 9 pct. from last year. Canada's production is estimated at a record 31 million 900 thousand tons, up 600 thousand or 2 pct. from last month and 31 pct. above last year.

WORLD PRODUCTION OF OILSEEDS

The world production for oilseeds for 1986/87 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at a record 196 million 500 thousand tons, up slightly from last year. U.S. production is estimated at 61 million 100 thousand tons, down 7 pct. from last year. Foreign production is estimated at a record 135 million 400 thousand tons, up 4 pct. from last year.

WORLD SOYBEAN PRODUCTION

The world production of soybeans for 1986/87 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at a record 98 million 800 thousand tons, up 3 pct. from last year.

U.S. CORN TO EC

The European Community accepted a total of 468,000 tons of U.S. corn at a levy reduction of the EC equivalent of $27 U.S. per ton. The normal levy is the EC equivalent of $173 per ton in U.S. dollars. With this purchase, an outstanding amount of 700,000 tons of corn remains to be purchased by the EC under the U.S.-EC interim agreement on Spain's joining the EC.

DAIRY SURPLUS TO DROP

Dairy price-support purchases fell to low levels this autumn. Farm and wholesale prices rose substantially during the second-half of 1986. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, both events occurred because of removal of substantial milk production capacity by the Dairy Termination Program, growth in commercial use, only modest production increases by non-Dairy Termination Program participants, and low commercial stocks. Total 1987 milk production is expected to fall 1 to 3 pct.

CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed on Dec. 1 for the slaughter market in Ariz., Calif., Colo., Iowa, Kans., Nebr., and Texas totaled 7 million 830 thousand head, down 1 pct. from a year ago and 8 pct. below Dec. 1, 1984, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

OUTLOOK FOR FOOD PRICES...USDA economist Ralph Parlett focuses on factors contributing to current retail food prices - up about three percent from 1985 -- and talks about the outlook for 1987. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (341)

OUTLOOK FOR FEED...Feed grain production for 1986 is still large, despite heavy participation in the feed grain acreage reduction program. USDA economist David Hull talks about factors contributing to this year's forecast as well as the forecast for 1987. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (342)

OUTLOOK FOR POULTRY...The demand for poultry products next year is expected to grow modestly, in step with the general economy. USDA economist Allen Baker outlines factors affecting poultry production. Vic Powell interviews. (343)

OUTLOOK FOR U.S. EXPORTS - I...Record foreign wheat production and the largest Soviet grain crop since the 1970's are limiting growth of world wheat trade, but other U.S. commodities are expecting increases in exports next year. USDA economist Steve MacDonald examines the outlook for U.S. exports. Vic Powell interviews. (344)

OUTLOOK FOR U.S. EXPORTS - II...One of the factors in the U.S. agricultural export picture is the projected 1987 recovery of world economic growth, which suffered a slight downturn this year. USDA economist Steve MacDonald takes a look at prospects next year for U.S. exports. Vic Powell interviews. (345)

IMPORTANT NOTICE: **We will not issue a Farm Broadcasters letter next week.**
Happy Holidays!

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1542...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) When Congress comes back into session, members are expected to once again take up modifications to the farm bill. On the docket will be everything from a "fine tuning" of the present law to a complete overhaul. Gary Crawford presents the opinions of four experts on the upcoming debate.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1531...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Big beef promotion; Outlook for horticultural exports; Milk outlook.

CONSUMER TIME #1024...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Healthy bones; Pork--A leaner image; Don't waste ground beef; Talk a walk; New flowers on the way.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Tues, Dec. 30, Crop and weather outlook; Wed, Dec. 31, Agricultural prices; Thurs, Jan. 8, Ag inputs outlook. No scheduled reports until Mon, Jan. 12, U.S. crop production, World supply and demand, Soviet crop outlook, Horticultural products review. (Note: Even though USDA has no reports scheduled for quite a few days in Jan., we will carry new stories every weekday.) Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

OFF MIKE

Many of you perused this column early enough to catch (and take advantage of) our invitation to let us know if you wanted to be included in recent telephone press conferences. As it turned out we had two for farm broadcasters: one with Sec'y of Agric Richard Lyng and the other with Deputy Sec'y Peter Myers. We don't often have enough lead time to issue an invitation in this column, so it was nice that so many saw it and called to participate. Incidentally, if your station can downlink from Westar III, Transponder 2, with a tunable receiver (capable of tuning in any one of the 24 channels on the transponder), let us know. We are uplinking all special events on that satellite, and we'll notify you of when and where ... Now to wipe a bit of egg off our face. In a column a couple weeks ago, we reported on the NAFB scholarship winners. One is Karl Fruendt, and we identified him as being a student at Univ of Oklahoma. Wrong!!! He's a student at Oklahoma State University! Being from the Pacific Northwest where the difference between Univ. of Idaho and Idaho State Univ can practically bring on riots, we appreciate the reaction we received to our goof...and we apologize to all Oklahoma State Univ alumni/ (Univ of Oklahoma alumni wanting equal time must specifically request it) ... Dave Carter (USDA Economics Management Service radio/TV specialist) is still looking for a public affairs specialist capable of producing radio and television programs. If you would like to know more, call him at 202-786-1494 ... John Stearns (Agriculture USA, Pacific Palisades, CA) recently received the Veritas Award from the American Agri-Women "..for telling the realities of hi-tech agriculture to the urban public on nationally syndicated TV for 25 years" Our congratulations ... Roddy Peeples (Voice of SW Agriculture Net, San Angelo, TX) is one of seven who received distinguished service awards from the Professional Agricultural Workers of Texas. Roddy's award came in the communications and public relations category. Again, our congratulations.

Jim Johnson

JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief
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